

Mayor's Night Out

Arlanza Responses

July 20, 2005

Terrace Elementary School

Resident #1

Wants to encourage City staff to keep coming to the community. Neighborhood needs more policing. Resident is alarmed at the increase in graffiti.

The incidents of graffiti tend to increase during the summer when school is out. The Street Division will have the Graffiti crew increase patrol in this area. One of the best ways to combat graffiti is making sure that it is reported and cleaned up as soon as possible. The city's goal is to have reported graffiti cleaned up between 24-48 hours after receiving the report. The graffiti toll-free hotline number is 1-866-824-3733. On August 17 Police conducted several probation searches and search warrants on residences of graffiti suspects who have been active in the area. For more information, contact Riverside Police Department West Area Commander Lt. Ed Blevins at (951) 351-6041.

Resident #2

How is noise control handled? Noise decibels quite high, but no one able to help me.

In general, noise issues are regulated by Chapter 7 of the Riverside Municipal Code. If the noise issue is during the daytime hours, the decibel level can be measured by a Code Enforcement Officer. In residential areas, noise is allowed at a decibel level up to 55dB between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m., and up to 45dB between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. For any other questions, please contact the Code Enforcement Division of the Community Development Department at (951) 826-5633.

Noise issues at night are addressed by the Riverside Police Department. Police have been in the resident's neighborhood numerous times and no specific location has been identified as being the cause of any noise in the area. The Police Area Commander spoke with Code Compliance and they are willing to place a noise decibel meter in the resident's home to monitor the noise level. For more information, contact Riverside Police Department West Area Commander Lt. Ed Blevins at (951) 351-6041.

Resident #3

Regarding street cleaning: it's trashy around Magnolia, Tyler to La Sierra.

This area is swept on a bi-weekly schedule. The Street Supervisor in charge of street sweeping checked the area and found it to be clean at the time of inspection. The Street

Division will continue to monitor the area. If you have further concerns, contact Field Operations Manager Danilo Batson at (951) 351-6127.

Resident #4

Need streets fixed and added patrols in the parks at night.

The Street Division staff will mark any areas that require a patch and will schedule accordingly. If you have further questions regarding street repair, contact Public Works Field Operations Manager Danilo Batson at (951) 351-6127.

The resident was not specific about what park and what problems he was referring to. Police called the resident, who reported that Bryant Park needed extra patrol and that there was a graffiti problem on the park equipment.

Bryant Park, being one of the larger parks in the area, gets a great deal of patrol as the park is busy with sports practice and numerous other activities. Police officers have a great working relationship with Ray Aguirre from Park and Recreation, who runs the community center, as well as Martha Matus from the Office of Neighborhoods, who works out of the Eric Solander Center. Both of these individuals are quick to report any problems at the park or surrounding neighborhood. Staff recently provided Police with some pictures of the graffiti that was on the playground equipment. On August 17, Police conducted some probation searches and search warrants on suspect's homes that we believe to be responsible for graffiti in the area. Two of these suspects were arrested. For more information, contact Riverside Police Department West Area Commander Lt. Ed Blevins at (951) 351-6041.

Resident #5

Vacant lots at Chadbourne & Arlington need to get cleaned up. There is illegal dumping. Resident calls gets no response.

The Engineering Division of Public Works inspected and advised the property owner to apply for a grading permit. The owner has now obtained the proper permits and the property has been leveled and cleaned up. If you have further questions, you may call Public Works Construction Contracts Administrator Daniel Ciacchella at (951) 826-5889.

Resident #6

- a) We need more illumination in the Wells Middle School Field on Crest Avenue. Wells Field, where children play, late in the afternoon it's very dark. People are dumping cars and furniture in the dark. Cars are being stripped. Especially bad at the corner of Crest & Wells.**

The Street Division will add this location (Crest & Wells) to the Trash Mitigation Crew hot spot list, so that it will be patrolled more often for illegal dumping. If you have

further questions, you may call Public Works Field Operations Manager Danilo Batson at (951) 351-6127.

The corner of Wells and Crest is not a play or athletic area; therefore, the Alvord Unified School District is not likely to construct any lighting there.

The athletic fields are unlit because they are in a neighborhood that would require CEQA and other environmental regulations. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is the state law that requires state and local agencies to identify and reduce, if feasible, the significant, negative environmental impacts of land use decisions. CEQA is a process that provides community input into the proposal and identify appropriate mitigation. The Alvord Unified School District has a Facility Master Plan that contemplates athletic facility improvements during the next 2-3 years. AUSD is willing to discuss joint use facilities and street lighting with the City for future planning. For further information, contact Alvord Unified School District Assistant Superintendent Wendel Tucker at (951) 509-5095.

b) Want to see activities to prevent kids from gang activity during the summertime. Urges community involvement.

The Park and Recreation Department offers a variety of programs and services at the Bryant Park Community Center and the Eric Solander Family Service Center, 7950 Philbin St., (951) 351-6135. The City understands the need to provide positive alternatives for our youth. We have included a list of programs and services offered in the Arlanza neighborhood for your review.

Arlanza Community Center Advisory Board Meeting - 3rd Wednesday of the month

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Thursday:	10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Friday:	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday:	Noon – 5 p.m.
Sunday:	Closed

Current Activities

- English as a Second Language (ESL) - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8-11 a.m.
- Shokotan Karate Classes – Mondays, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Aerobics - Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. and Monday through Thursday, 6-7 p.m.
- Cooking and Nutrition for Teens and Adults - 2nd Thursday of the month
- Arlanza Community Center Youth Golf Club - Time reserved at the Van Buren Golf Club
- Arlanza Learning Center Computer Lab – Monday through Thursday, 3-7 p.m.
- After school tutoring program Monday through Thursday, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- PROJECT HOPE Teen Program - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

- Animators - Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Summer Open Recreation Program for youth ages 7-12 - Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Activities include arts and crafts, group games, snacks, local field trips, swimming, special activities and movies.
- Teen Girls Dance program - Mondays and Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m.
- Bryant Baby Dancing - Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- Breaking Dancing – Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m.
- Weight Lifting - Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Boxing Training - Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Open Gym Basketball - Monday through Thursday, 7-9 p.m.
- Cheerleading - Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Youth Sports

- Flag football
- Basketball
- Soccer
- Track
- Rookie Baseball

Arlanza Little League Meeting - 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Jr. Tackle Football All America Meetings –3rd Thursday of the month

Special Activities

- National Night Out – Saturday, August 2, 2005 – 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Health Faire - September 24, 2005
- Halloween Carnival - October 31, 2005
- Spark of Love Toy Giveaway - December 2005
- Spring Egg Hunt (day before Easter Sunday)
- Cinco de Mayo Fiesta (May of each year)
- September de 16th Fiesta (September of each year)

For more information, contact Arlanza Community Center/Bryant Park Recreation Services Coordinator Raymond Aguirre or Assistant Recreation Coordinator Betty Perez at (951) 351-6135.

Resident #7

Randolph Street dead-ends into Wells. Kids walk to Norte Vista High School. Blind corners on bending street. Can't get speed humps. Feels ignored. Need protection for kids, seniors and others who walk. There is a school crossing at Mia Avenue, but no three-way stop.

A work order has been issued to install a stop sign at the school crossing at the intersection of Randolph Street and Mia Avenue. To initiate the speed hump process, residents interested in speed hump installations on their streets can contact the Diane Huggett in the Traffic Engineering Department at (951) 826-5366.

Resident #8

Problem with a noisy neighbor still hasn't been resolved. Resident has a neighbor on opposite side of a side fence who repairs cars at all hours. A Code Enforcement Officer has been working on this for years. Resident needs help. Can he get a restraining order? Claims he was assaulted over the back fence last year trying to document the problem.

Police have visited this location 17 times since January 2004. Code Compliance inspected July 21, immediately after Mayor's Night Out, at approximately 6:30 p.m. for illegal auto repair. The inspection confirmed no auto repair or noise, which is consistent with the information provided by the resident, at Mayor's Night Out. The resident filed a formal complaint with the Police Department, which had resulted in a citizen's arrest and an absence of the last few days by his neighbor. In the event the problem resumes, Code Compliance will be continuing enforcement action against the offending party, by way of the Administrative Civil Penalties process. For more information, contact Senior Code Compliance Officer Joe Estrada at (951) 826-5224.

Resident #9

What can be done about illegal sales from mobile vendors: fresh fruit, ice cream, tamales, etc. These vendors are not paying any taxes. Want the carts to stop. There are several problem intersections. Understand violators won't pay fines or show up if cited. Don't we have the ability to take the product? Send a message that illegal sales are not profitable in Riverside.

Riverside Police conducted a program assisted by Code Compliance August 8-10. Officers confiscated two ice cream carts and several hundred ice cream bars; officers also confiscated numerous bouquets of flowers and property from two people selling food items out of shopping carts. Each of these people were cited for various offenses. Police and Code Compliance will continue this program on a regular basis. For more information, contact Riverside Police Department West Area Commander Lt. Ed Blevins at (951) 351-6041.

The Code Enforcement Division is employing a two-part strategy. First, four part-time Code Enforcement Technicians positions have been added to the Division to address issues such as transient vendors, illegal parking and signs during non-traditional work hours. The personnel will work early morning, evening and weekend hours to address transient vendors who typically operate during these hours.

Secondly, the Code Enforcement Division and Police Department are addressing transient vendors through segments of intensive enforcement. The first such effort

(RPD/Code Enforcement South End Task Force) occurred August 8-10, in the City's Central and West Police precincts. The effort concentrated on SR91 off-ramps from Madison to Pierce, residential areas in Arlanza and La Sierra, and the commercial area adjacent to the Galleria at Tyler. During this period, the task force:

- Arrested 10 persons for warrants, drug possession, paraphernalia, parolee-at-large, probation violations and so on;
- Confiscated products from 6 illegal transient vendors;
- Made contact with 6 permitted vendors;
- Collected 18 shopping carts containing abandoned transient property;
- Removed 7 truck-loads of abandoned transient-type property;
- Cleared 2 transient encampments; and
- Posted 2 properties for clean-up.

If you have further questions or would like to report such activity, contact the Code Enforcement Division of the Community Development Department at (951) 826-5633.

Resident #10

The Agricultural Park must be worth more than \$30 million. It belongs to the residents of Riverside. This neighborhood sorely needs a ballfield, a place to play. The Ag Park is a major asset to this City. Why, since we're going to sell the Ag Park, haven't the City had a formal appraisal. Why haven't we asked developers what they will do for our city? Why does the City want to trade the Ag Park for worthless land in the emergency touchdown area you can't build on?

The land exchange project was approved in May of 2003. The land values at that time were much lower than they are today; even so, the Ag Park is clearly not worth \$30 million, as environmental cleanup of the PCBs that are on the property must be cleaned up. Even so, the Agricultural Park exchange is much more complicated than simply the sale or transfer of the Ag Park property.

The goal was to acquire additional property around the airport to prevent further development within the safety zone. In addition, the City wanted to expand the Van Buren Golf Center to 18 holes to make it more viable. The developer agreed to acquire the property in question, which solved the airport safety zone issue and agreed to invest at least \$1 million to develop it for golf. Even before the discovery of PCB's, the Ag Park parcel still required the removal of significant amounts concrete and brine dirt, which lowered the value of the City's parcel.

While the value of the property has appreciated in the last two years, the increase is not to the same extent that the discovery of PCBs has increased the clean up costs, currently estimated to exceed \$12 million.

Why haven't we found out what this property is worth and invite proposals from other developers?

The City committed to the exchange in May of 2003 as a complicated exchange whereby the City achieved its goals of expanding the golf course, acquiring additional safety zone at the end of the runway, and getting the Ag Park property cleaned up. When the clean up costs and the exchange benefits to the City and its residents are factored into the equation, the exchange is fair. After the discovery of PCBs, the deal became even more favorable for the city. For more information, contact Assistant City Manager Michael Beck at (951) 826-5556.

Resident #11

a) Been hearing that the Bryant Park snack bar is on its way.

The pre-engineered snack bar and restroom is currently being fabricated and delivery is expected some time in August. The first indication that construction has begun on site will be when the site preparation work commences. The building will take about one week to assemble and finalize hook-ups once delivered to the site. The project is being managed by Park Planner Bud Fish at (951) 826-2027.

b) One call does it all, but aren't streets supposed to be cleaned on a regular basis? Resident lives on Ellen & Gramercy

This area is swept on a bi-weekly schedule. The Street Supervisor in charge of street sweeping checked the area and found it to be clean at the time of inspection. The Street Division will continue to monitor the area.

c) Any way there could be to get a truck to regular pick up the couches and mattresses in the Arlanza area?

The Street Division will have the Trash Mitigation Crew increase patrol of this area. If you have further concerns with street operations, contact Field Operations Manager Danilo Batson at (951) 351-6127.

Resident #12

What is happening with the apartment complex on Cypress?

Plans are proceeding for the construction of the apartments. Plans have been submitted to the Planning Department for plan check. The date of construction will depend on how quickly the architect can make corrections and resubmit plans for permits.

The Developer is in the process of applying for a Tax Credit allocation. Announcements for this round of applications should be in the beginning of September. If they do not receive funding this time, they will apply again in the next round. If they receive funding they will begin project construction about 120 days from the formal award. For more information contact Development Department Housing Manager Shirley Wolf at (951)

826-5961 or Riverside Housing Development Corp. Executive Director Bruce Kulpa at (951) 341-6511.

Resident #13

Question on behalf of Van Buren golf course, where the manager has been trying to expand the golf course, trying to get City officials to help. Environmental studies are done. They have an excellent kids golf program; resident is worried the program could be lost if course doesn't get expansion.

The City shares the interest in expanding Van Buren Golf Center to assure its future viability and expand its programs. This is one of the reasons for why the City entered into the exchange agreement related to the Ag Park. In exchange for the Ag Park, the developer will provide the City approximately 60 acres of land adjacent to the current golf course and invest at least \$1 million to develop an additional 9 holes. The discovery of PCBs on the Ag Park has hampered the exchange and therefore the expansion of the golf course. We are hopeful all of this will be resolved in the next six months. For more information, contact Assistant City Manager Michael Beck at (951) 826-5556.

Resident #14

Resident wants to see more free workshops, activities and classes she would like to see available in the neighborhood, such as piano, ESL, auto mechanics, as well as a safe place to have social events.

Community Workshops are provided by Martha Matus, Neighborhood Coordinator at the Eric Solander Youth Center at Bryant Park, 7950 Philbin St., at (951) 351-2031. Bob Ortega, Administrator for Adult Educational Service for the Alvord Unified School District also provides classes and workshops. Contact Mr. Ortega at (951) 351-9305. Please also see the response to Resident #6, regarding park activities.

Resident #15

Wanted to draw attention to the November election and how important it is to residents of Riverside.

The following City offices will be on the November 8, 2005, ballot:

- Mayor
- Councilmember - Ward 2
- Councilmember - Ward 4
- Councilmember - Ward 6

There are no City measures proposed at this time. The last day to register to vote is October 24, 2005. For more information, contact City Clerk Colleen J. Nicol at (951) 826-5557.

Resident #16

Area is going downhill. Surrounded by noise that intrudes in her home, cars racing up and down the street; scared for small children.

- a) inoperable vehicles: can they keep piling up if they can't be seen from the streets. Called Code Enforcement and got call returned but was told they are behind on their work.**

On July 27, 2005, the Code Enforcement Division inspected the area and issued Notice of Violations to four inoperable vehicles on Lewis Street. If you have further questions, or would like to report an inoperable vehicle you may contact the Code Enforcement Division of the Community Development Department at (951) 826-5633.

- b) Told there is no noise enforcement.**

In general, noise issues are regulated by Chapter 7 of the Riverside Municipal Code. If the noise issue is during the daytime hours, the decibel level can be measured by a Code Enforcement Officer. In residential areas, noise is allowed at a decibel level up to 55dB between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. and up to 45dB between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Noise issues at night are addressed by the Riverside Police Department. For any other questions, please contact the Code Enforcement Division of the Community Development Department at 826-5633.

Resident #17

Serious problem. The Council passed a resolution not to allow input from the people by pulling items off the consent calendar. Did Mayor agree with this resolution limiting free speech of citizens?

Mayor Loveridge supports the Council's decision to modify procedures for City Council meetings. As discussed on July 12th City Council meeting, the majority of comparable cities in California allow Council Members or staff to defer Consent Calendar items for formal discussion. This ensures that the City effectively manages its meeting agenda.

By moving the Public Comment period to the start of the meeting (and creating a second such period at the start of the Council's afternoon session), the revised procedures invite residents to share concerns regarding any item within the Council's jurisdiction - - whether or not they appear on the meeting agenda. During these comment periods, residents can also request that the Council defer any Consent Calendar item(s) for formal discussion. Residents will also be invited to present comments on any Discussion Calendar item, as well as public hearing matters.

As Mayor, I believe that these reforms are appropriate, afford enhanced opportunities for public comment, ensure that comments are received before action is taken on any Consent or Discussion items, and hold the potential to broaden participation in Council meetings by a greater number of Riverside residents.